Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

receiving an indicator to create a semantic object to represent a target referent;

determining whether an object type of the target referent is a physical entity, a digital object, or an intangible entity;

identifying a semantic object type for the semantic object suitable to represent the object type of the target referent;

creating the semantic object of the semantic object type to represent the target referent, the semantic object having a plurality of meta-tags;

wherein the plurality of meta-tags comprises a predetermined set of meta-tags based on the semantic object type;

wherein a meta-tag of the plurality of meta-tags is associable with metadata; and

associating the meta-tag of the plurality of meta-tags with metadata; wherein at least one of, the meta-tag and the metadata is definable by an ontology.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising assigning one of multiple lifecycle stages to the semantic object.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the multiple lifecycle stages include at least one of: a draft stage, an active stage, an inactive stage and a deleted stage, further comprising subsequently transitioning the semantic object from one of the multiple lifecycle stages to another.

5-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising exchanging information about the ontology using the semantic object.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising extracting at least part of the content from the target referent before inclusion in the semantic object.

13. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A method, ~~of claim 12, further~~ comprising,

receiving an indicator to create a semantic object to represent a target referent;

determining whether an object type of the target referent is a physical entity, a digital object, or an intangible entity;

identifying a semantic object type for the semantic object suitable to represent the object type of the target referent;

creating the semantic object of the semantic object type to represent the target referent, the semantic object having a plurality of meta-tags;

wherein the plurality of meta-tags comprises a predetermined set of meta-tags based on the semantic object type;

wherein a meta-tag of the plurality of meta-tags is associable with metadata;

associating the meta-tag of the plurality of meta-tags with metadata; wherein at least one of, the meta-tag and the metadata is definable by an ontology;

extracting at least part of the content from the target referent before inclusion in the semantic object; and

subsequently determining that the referent target has been revised and updating metadata associated with one or more of the plurality of meta-tags of the semantic object using the revision.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the extraction is part of a data mining performed on selected resources.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising sharing the semantic object with a user and updating metadata associated with one or more of the plurality of meta-tags of the semantic object to reflect a change made by the user.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein at least one of the creation of the semantic object and modification of the semantic object is triggered by one or more of the following events comprising:

saving a document or data item;

creating a document or data item

opening or viewing a document or data item;

modifying a document or data item;

transmitting a document or data item;

receiving a document or data item;

deleting a document or data item; and

integrating documents or data items with existing file servers, databases or search engines.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

maintaining a table of mappings between a plurality of semantic objects and the respective target referents; and

further providing a daemon that watches for changes and updates the association table accordingly.

20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising embedding the semantic object in the referent target.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising creating a link between the semantic object and any of at least one of the plurality of semantic objects, the created link having a type specified by a rule.

24 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

receiving a query created by a user;

creating a view that stores the received query;

creating a view semantic object that represents the view; and

sharing the created new view semantic object with at least another user in the computer system.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the semantic object is created in a process of matching offers and requests, the offers represented by offer objects and the requests represented by request objects, and wherein the offer objects and the request objects are semantic objects that each include (i) metadata defining particulars of the offers and the requests, and (ii) payload data.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein metadata is maintained using an approach selected from:

storing offer or request metadata in meta-tags in the semantic object;

creating a separate semantic object and storing the offer or request metadata in the separate semantic object, and wrapping the semantic object using the separate semantic object; and

creating a separate semantic object and storing the offer or request metadata in the separate semantic object, and creating a reference pointer between the semantic object and the separate semantic object.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising:
test posting the semantic object to provide an estimate of a number of matches; and
providing for revision of the semantic object based on the test posting.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein a particular user provides example semantic objects that are test posted and evaluated, further comprising generating an optimized semantic card specification based on the test posting.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein receiving the indicator to create the semantic object comprises, one or more of:
receiving a user request;
receiving an event-based trigger; and
receiving an automatic trigger.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising, receiving the event-based trigger automatically generated when an event is detected from one or more of a file directory and an application.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising, generating the automatic trigger responsive to data-mining a knowledge resource.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein, the plurality of meta-tags further comprises, a customized set of meta-tags; wherein the customized set of meta-tags are user-definable.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the metadata of the meta-tag is one or more of, user-specifiable and machine-specifiable.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising, automatically identifying metadata of the target referent to be associated with the metadata of the meta-tag of the semantic object representing the target referent.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising, associating the semantic object with a set of rules; wherein the set of rules are one or more of, user-specifiable and machine-specifiable.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the set of rules associated with the semantic object comprises one or more of, a set of access privilege rules, a set of modification rules, a set of linking rules, and a set of update rules of the semantic object.

38. (Previously Presented) A method of creating a semantic object of a linking type for linking related semantic objects that represent related referents, the method comprising:

receiving an indicator to create a linking semantic object between a source semantic object representing a source referent and a target semantic object representing a target referent;

identifying a set of linking rules associated with the target semantic object, the set of linking rules governing a set of circumstances under which the target semantic object is to be linked to one or more other related semantic objects; and

creating the linking semantic object indicating a relationship between the source referent represented by the source semantic object and the target referent represented by the target semantic object when in compliance with the set of linking rules associated with the target semantic object.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein receiving the indicator to create the linking semantic object comprises:

identifying a relationship between metadata of the source semantic object and metadata of the target semantic metadata; and

generating the indicator to create linking semantic object between the source semantic object and the target semantic object.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein receiving the indicator to create the linking semantic object comprises receiving a user request to create the linking semantic object for indicating a relationship between the source referent represented by the source semantic object and the target referent represented by the target semantic object.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising, assigning a confidence value to the linking semantic object to represent an indication of accuracy of the linking semantic object.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising, associating the linking semantic object with the metadata of the source semantic object.

43. (Withdrawn) A method, comprising:

receiving a user request to create a semantic object of a first type to represent an offering;

providing the user with a template associated with the semantic object of the first type; wherein one or more entries of the template are submitted by the user to indicate a first set of criteria for identifying a first suitable set of recipients;

creating the semantic object of the semantic object type to represent the offering, the semantic object having a plurality of meta-tags associated with the one or more entries of the template;

wherein the plurality of meta-tags comprises a predetermined set of meta-tags based on the semantic object type;

optionally linking the semantic object to one or more of other semantic objects; wherein the linking is one or more of user-specifiable based on a second set of criteria and machine-specifiable based on semantic matching;

identify the suitable set of recipients based on the first set of criteria;

identifying a second suitable set of recipients based on semantic matching; and

sending the offering represented by the semantic object to the first and second suitable set of recipients over a network.

44. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 43, wherein the first set of criteria comprises, a set of explicitly named recipients.

45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 44, wherein the first set of criteria comprises, a set of implicit criteria.

46. (Withdrawn) A system, comprising:

a plurality of user devices communicatively coupled to a host server over a network connection;

a first user device of a plurality of user devices to receive a user request to create a semantic object of a first type to represent an offering, when in operation, the first user device establishes a communication session with the host server to transmit the user request;

wherein, when in operation, the host server provides the user with a template associated with the semantic object of the first type; wherein one or more entries of the template are submitted by the user via the first user device to indicate a first set of criteria for identifying a first suitable set of recipients;

wherein, when in operation, the host server creates the semantic object of the semantic object type to represent the offering, the semantic object having a plurality of meta-tags associated with the one or more entries of the template and the plurality of meta-tags comprises a predetermined set of meta-tags based on the semantic object type;

wherein, when in operation, the host server optionally links the semantic object to one or more of other semantic objects; wherein the linking is one or more of user-specifiable based on a second set of criteria and machine-specifiable based on semantic matching;

wherein, when in operation, the host server identifies the suitable set of recipients based on the first set of criteria and a second suitable set of recipients based on semantic matching; and

a second set of user devices of the plurality of user devices, when in operation, establishes a communication session with the host server over the network connection to receive the offering represented by the semantic object to be presented to the first and second suitable set of recipients.

47. (Withdrawn) A system, comprising:

means for, receiving a user request to create a semantic object of a first type to represent an offering;

means for, providing the user with a template associated with the semantic object of the first type; wherein one or more entries of the template are submitted by the user to indicate a set of criteria for identifying a first suitable set of recipients;

means for, creating the semantic object of the semantic object type to represent the offering, the semantic object having a plurality of meta-tags associated with the one or more entries of the template;

wherein the plurality of meta-tags comprises a predetermined set of meta-tags based on the semantic object type;

means for, optionally linking the semantic object to one or more of other semantic objects; wherein the linking is one or more of user-specifiable based on a second set of criteria and machine-specifiable based on semantic matching;

means for, identify the suitable set of recipients based on the set of criteria;

means for, identifying a second suitable set of recipients based on semantic matching; and

means for, sending the offering represented by the semantic object to the first and second suitable set of recipients over a network..